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Capitol Building And Planning Committee

A Report to the 50th Legislature

December 1986

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MEMBERSHIP

CAPITOL BUILDING AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

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Representative Jan Brown	Senator Max Conover
Representative Marian Hanson	Senator Dorothy Eck
Representative William Menahan	Senator Pat Goodover
Representative Gerald D. Nisbet	Senator Allen C. Kolstad
Representative John E. Phillips	Senator Pete Story

Non-Voting Membership:

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Department of Administration

Tom O'Connell, Administrator
Architecture and Engineering Division

David Hunter
Governor's Office

Vacant
Lewis and Clark Areawide Planning Organization

MONTANA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Senator Allen C. Kolstad, Chairman

Diana S. Dowling, Executive Director

Committee Staff

Robert B. Person, Researcher
Ellen Garrity, Secretary

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

Summary of Recommendations.....i

Introduction.....1

Capitol Renovation and Related Issues.....3

Capitol Complex Long-Range Development Plan.....7

Committee Membership.....9

Map of Capitol Complex.....11

Appendix:

A. Bill Revising Committee Membership

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

-- 1) Amend the Capitol Complex Long Range Development Plan to indicate that if there is any future building on the Sixth and Montana site, it should be an executive building designed to relieve space pressure in the Capitol.

-- 2) Reduce committee membership to include four instead of twelve legislators and that the local government representative be designated by the governing body of Helena.

INTRODUCTION

Authority For and Responsibilities of the Committee

The Capitol Building and Planning Committee is established under the provisions of Title 5, Chapter 17 of the Montana Code Annotated. Responsibilities are assigned the committee both in Title 5 and in Title 2, Chapter 17. Those responsiblities include:

-- establishing and maintaining a master plan for the orderly development of state buildings in the immediate area of the capitol city;

-- consulting with and advising the Department of Administration concerning the assignment of space in the capitol complex;

-- consulting with and advising the Department of Administration concerning the actual placement of busts, statues, memorials, or art displays of a permanent nature within public areas of the capitol complex;

-- serving as a long-range building committee to recommend to the Legislature and the Department of Administration construction and remodeling priorities for the capitol complex;

-- advising the Department of Administration on the allocation of space in the Capitol for the use of the Legislature for functions other than House or Senate Chambers; and

-- preparing a written report of the committee's activities and recommendations for presentation to each regular session of the Legislature.

CAPITOL RENOVATION AND RELATED ISSUES

The Capitol Building and Planning Committee met five times during 1985 and 1986 in addition to holding one subcommittee meeting. Most of the committee's time was consumed by a struggle to find a way to complete the Capitol renovation project with the available appropriated money in a way that could satisfy the disparate interests of the building's tenants. At the last of three meetings held during the 1985 regular session, the chairman pointed out the three major problems regarding any project to renovate the Capitol facing the committee at that time:

1. The current project probably cannot be funded to solve all of the needs of the building's current tenants. The needs of the Legislature for space to conduct its meetings, enhancement of the public areas for Montana's people, and measures to conserve energy and thus reduce future operating costs are paramount in what should be done in the project. A minimal current project to accomplish these ends needs to be outlined.

2. A long-range plan for further work that we now know needs to be done on the building should at least be outlined and accepted by policymakers. Such a plan could involve a long-term use plan for the Capitol to be primarily a legislative building with additional ceremonial functions.

3. To the extent that long-range plans would involve moving offices out of the Capitol, some proposal

must be adopted consistent with the Capitol Complex Long-Range Development Plan.

After discussion of these points, the committee asked the architects to draw a plan to show committee members where 17 rooms could be in the Capitol, without flooring over the present Senate chambers and without underground committee rooms. The plan should also show what agencies would be moved out of the Capitol.

The problem of Capitol renovation then moved out of the committee's domain to that of the Legislature and its leadership. The reports of the architects were presented to conference committees and leadership for the rest of the session. No recommendation was forthcoming.

The committee then met in early August 1985 and took the following action:

1. The Department of Administration was directed to carpet the House of Representatives with the Speaker of the House and the House Legislative Administration Committee to be involved in its selection.

2. The committee decided to work toward a concrete proposal for the Capitol renovation plan and to move toward implementation of such a plan. To that end, the committee authorized the chairman to appoint a subcommittee to work on such a proposal along with leadership from both parties and both houses.

3. The committee also heard an update report on the completion of phase 1 of the project and voted to accept the proposal for the Lee Metcalf memorial to be placed in the new Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Building.

4. The committee also recommended leaving the appropriation for the Capitol renovation where it is and allow the interest to accumulate to the benefit of the project.

Chairman Keyser appointed himself, Representative Menahan, Senator Blaylock, and Senator Story to serve on the subcommittee to move toward a renovation plan proposal. On October 18, 1985, the subcommittee met with Speaker Vincent, Ellen Feaver, Phil Hauck, Tom O'Connell, Jim Brown, and John Northey. After a lengthy discussion, the subcommittee voted to recommend to the full committee:

1. That an executive office building be built on the site at Sixth and Montana.

2. That any decision on remodeling the Capitol be deferred until after the new building is completed.

The subcommittee's concept of the building at Sixth and Montana was to construct a building of about 50,000 square feet, which would be enough space to accommodate the people who would be removed from the Capitol and those agencies that are currently housed in buildings on that site. The subcommittee recommended that the $4.9 million then available in the Capitol renovation appropriation be applied to this project. It was

believed that the total cost of the new building ought not to exceed $4.9 million by a great deal.

The option of proceeding directly with the new building as recommended was, of course, precluded when the special session chose to transfer the Capitol renovation appropriation balance to the general fund. There is, therefore, no money currently available to pursue such a project.

At its last meeting, however, the committee considered the merits of the subcommittee recommendations and recommended that the Capitol Complex Long-Range Development Plan be amended such that if there is any future building on the Sixth and Montana site that it be an executive office building.

Current problems in the Capitol will have to remain largely unsolved until that time.

CAPITOL COMPLEX LONG-RANGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

This section reviews the current status of the Capitol Complex Long-Range Development Master Plan (Master Plan). Comments are keyed to the map reproduced on page 11.

General

The master plan was first developed in 1972 and has been implemented with remarkable fidelity since then. As with any conceptual plan, details change when specific developments occur. Yet the overall spirit of the plan has been preserved over the years.

1985-1986 Developments (see map for numbered areas)

Area 1: The building labelled "future bldg." has been completed as the Lee Metcalf Building housing the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, the Architecture and Engineering Division, and other functions. Landscaping includes a stormwater retention pond at the north end of the block built in cooperation with the City of Helena to implement a portion of the city's water storm drainage plan.

Area 2: Parking south of the Capitol has been improved in accordance with the master plan. Funds appropriated in 1985 have been used to add 117 improved parking spaces near the Capitol.

Area 3: An addition to the Veterans and Pioneers Memorial Building has been completed.

Area 4: The stair tower/elevator project and facade stabilization work has been completed at the Capitol.

Notes regarding changes in the plan

Area 5: Although the map shows a mall on Washington Drive north of Eighth Avenue, the concept has been dropped from the plan as a result of action of an earlier Capitol Building and Planning Committee. Future maps will no longer show this concept.

Area 6: This area at the corner of Sixth and Montana is the site of the Committee's principal recommendation -- an executive office building. Shown on the map is an education/state library building. Both state library and education functions have been housed elsewhere since the master plan was first drawn. Thus the Sixth and Montana site became available. See the Capitol Renovation and Related Issues section of this report for more information on this proposal.

The parcel at the corner of Montana and Broadway designated as "open space" has been sold and is now the site of a private project.

The balance of the plan remains intact. Small additional parcels of land remain to be purchased, but will be purchased only upon provision of funding by legislative appropriation. No development within the master plan area is contemplated for the 1987-1989 biennium.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

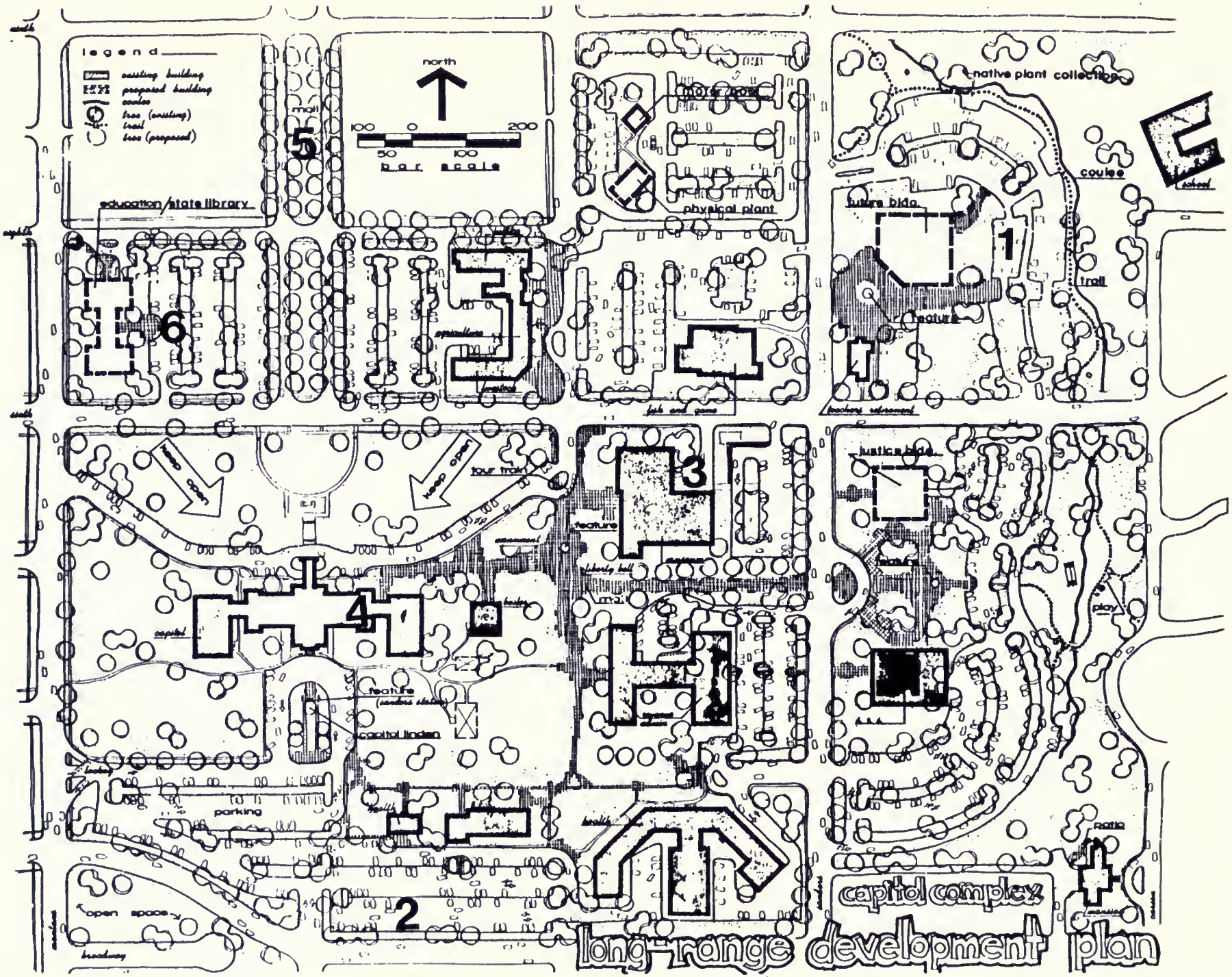
The committee recommends adoption of a bill to change the committee membership by:

1. reducing the member of legislative members from twelve to four, and

2. changing the local government representatives to a designee of the governing body of Helena.

Historically, the committee functioned with four legislative members. With the approval of an appropriation for Capitol renovation with no consensus as to what to do in the building, legislative membership was increased to twelve to assure greater legislative involvement in renovation. With renovation now no longer imminent, the committee recommends return to four legislative members.

The committee has always had a representative of the local government's planning function as a non-voting member. In recent years, that member has been ex officio the director of the Lewis and Clark Areawide Planning Organization. That entity was abolished in the summer of 1986. The committee recommends that the local representative be a person designated by the governing body of the City of Helena. Regardless how the city may organize, the designee should be able to serve as a liaison to assist in planning area development.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trail
feature
fish and game
teachers retirement
keep open
keep open
tour train
feature
liberty bell
capitol
feature
capitol linden
parking
health
open space
broadway
justice bldg.
play
patio
capitol complex
long-range development plan

1 _____ BILL NO. _____

2 INTRODUCED BY _____

3 BY REQUEST OF THE CAPITOL BUILDING AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

4

5 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT AMENDING SECTION
6 5-17-101, MCA, TO REVISE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CAPITOL
7 BUILDING AND PLANNING COMMITTEE; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE
8 EFFECTIVE DATE."

9

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

11 Section 1. Section 5-17-101, MCA, is amended to read:

12 "5-17-101. Capitol building and planning committee --
13 appointment, composition, and meetings. (1) There is a
14 capitol building and planning committee consisting of ~~16~~
15 eight members as follows:

16 (a) ~~six~~ two members of the house of representatives
17 appointed by the speaker on a bipartisan basis;

18 (b) ~~six~~ two members of the senate appointed by the
19 committee on committees on a bipartisan basis;

20 (c) the director of the department of administration,
21 who shall serve as a nonvoting member;

22 (d) the administrator of the architectural and
23 engineering division of the department of administration,
24 who shall serve as a nonvoting member;

25 (e) a representative of the governor's office,

1 designated by the governor, who shall serve as a nonvoting
2 member; and
3 (f) ~~the-director--of--the--Lewis--and--Clark--areawide~~
4 ~~planning--organization~~ a representative of the city of
5 Helena, designated by the governing body, who shall serve as
6 a nonvoting member.
7 (2) The committee shall select a chairman, who may
8 call meetings at his discretion for the conduct of committee
9 business."
10 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Effective date. This act is
11 effective on passage and approval.

-End-

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